

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CU-02 NIC-01

AID-05 USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 BIB-01

OPR-01 SY-04 /064 W

----- 007186

O R 281309Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9408

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC HONOLULU

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMCONSUL SONGKHLA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 20120

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, TH

SUBJ: THANOM PRESENCE IN THAILAND -- AN UPDATE

REF: A. BANGKOK 20110 AND PREVIOUS

B. BANGKOK 20117 (USINFO)

C. FTB 19,995

1. ANTI-THANOM ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT DECEMBER 28 HAS CONCENTRATED ON THE PROTEST RALLY THAT BEGAN DURING THE AFTERNOON AT THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY. THE CROWD AT THE RALLY IS A REPORTED 10,000, ABOUT HALD STUDENTS AND HALF PUBLIC ONLOOKERS. THE SPEAKERS ARE TRYING TO BUILD PUBLIC SENTIMENT AGAINST THANOM AND AGAINST THE RTG FOR
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ALLEGED COLLUSION IN HIS RETURN. THEY WANT THANOM TRIED BY A

PEOPLE'S COURT. THE STUDENTS HAVE NOT YET CONVEYED ANY FORMAL DEMANDS TO THE RTG.

2. SEKSAN PRASOETKUN AND SAOWANI LIMMANON WERE BOTH ON THE PLATFORM AT THE RALLY, ALONG WITH STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES FROM CHIANG MAI AND THE SOUTH. THE REPORTED PUBLIC REACTION IS ENTHUSIASTIC, BUT THE CROWD IS NOT CONTRIBUTING ITS MONEY TO SUPPORT THE RALLY. COMMENT: RECENT NSCT CORRUPTION SCANDALS HAVE UNDERMINED PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS' MONEY MANAGEMENT ABILITIES. SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THIS INABILITY TO RAISE MONEY MAY SERIOUSLY HINDER NSCT EFFORTS TO CONTINUE THE PRESENT ANTI-THANOM RALLY FOR LONG.

3. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE RALLY, ANTI-THANOM POSTERS AND BANNERS HAVE APPEARED IN MANY PARTS OF BANGKOK. MANY OF THESE CONTAIN GRIM MESSAGES THREATENING PHYSICAL HARM AND EVEN DEATH TO THANOM.

4. A GROUP OF CHULALONGKORN PROFESSORS HAVE ISSUED A STATEMENT IN WHICH THEY SAID THAT THANOM SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED OUT ON BAIL FOR HIS OWN SAFETY'S SAKE. THE PROFESSORS ALSO STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PRESS CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST THANOM IN ADDITION TO ANY COURT MARTIAL PROCEEDINGS. THAMMASAT PROFESSORS HAVE ISSUED A SIMILAR TRACT WHICH THEY WERE PASSING OUT IN THE VICINITY OF THE SANAM LUANG. THE THAMMASAT TRACT ACCUSES THANOM OF COMPLICITY IN THE DEATHS THAT OCCURRED IN OCTOBER 1973 AND OF NONPAYMENT OF TAXES, AND SAYS HE SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL.

5. GENERAL KRIT SIWARA IS REPORTED TO BE CUTTING SHORT HIS VISIT TO MANILA AND RETURNING TO BANGKOK LATE IN THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 28.

6. REFERENCE B IS A USINFO WHICH SUMMARIZES THE LATEST PRESS STORIES ON THANOM'S RETURN AND INCLUDES DATE-TIME CITE NUMBERS FOR THOSE ARTICLES WHICH FBIS TRANSMITTED.
KINTNER

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